

LEPIDOPTERA OF ABERDEENSHIRE, KINCARDINESHIRE AND BANFFSHIRE – 9th APPENDIX

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Abstract

Species of Lepidoptera new to north-east Scotland are reviewed. Twenty-six new species are noted; a further three are recorded after an absence in excess of one hundred years.

Introduction

A remarkable number of new and sometimes unexpected species has been added to the north-east Scotland list (VCs 91-94) in the three years since the last Appendix (Palmer, Young and Leverton, 1998). Twenty-nine species are recorded here, three of which have been rediscovered after a gap of more than a century. Some of the others have almost certainly been overlooked for many years, some are migrants, but some very obvious macrolepidoptera are certainly new arrivals. Whilst many of the species new to Kincardineshire and Aberdeenshire have probably colonised the counties from the south, the four species of macrolepidoptera new to Banffshire have in all likelihood arrived from the adjacent counties to the west, East Inverness-shire and Morayshire, where all four are known to be resident.

Unless otherwise indicated the records are those of one or more of the authors. Other contributors, with their abbreviations in the list in parentheses, are David Barbour (DAB); Keith Bland (KPB); Helen Gardner (HG); Bob Heckford (RJH); Cedric Holmes (CWNH); John Langmaid (JRL) and Nick Littlewood (NL). Three Rothamsted Insect Survey traps now operate in the area, all have produced interesting records. The operators are Jon and Marion Bailey (Monymusk), Peter Holden (Mar Lodge) and David Hamilton (Glen Saugh).

Breaking with previous traditions, we have omitted species which are not new to north-east Scotland, but have merely been recorded from one or more new VCs within the area. These data are now adequately covered by the microlepidoptera reviews of the intervening years (Langmaid & Young 1999, 2000, 2001).

Species new to north east Scotland**Nepticulidae**

Stigmella svenssoni (Johan.) – VC 93: Haddo House, x.2000, mine on oak (Langmaid & Young, 2001). VC 92: Craighendarroch oakwood x.2001, mines on oak. Probably an overlooked species, recorded from scattered localities throughout Scotland.

Incurvariidae

Lampronia pubicornis (Haw.) – VC 92: Inver, one bred x pupa on rose (JRL). The only known previous Scottish record is of a specimen in Cambridge University Museum of Zoology. It is labelled “Linwood, Renfrews.”, and is undated, but was acquired by the museum in 1941.

Psychidae

Narycia monilifera (Geoff.) – VC 91: Muchalls vi.1998, cases on trunk of *Acer pseudoplatanus*. VC 93: Gight woods, vi.98, cases on trunks of *Abies nobilis* (RMP, MRY & JRL). Probably a long established species, recorded from several scattered localities in Scotland.

Acanthopsyche atra (L.) – VC 92: one larva in its case in a pitfall trap at Mar Estate near Braemar viii.2000. Well known from the central Highlands of Scotland, this species is probably another long overlooked resident.

Yponomeutidae

Argyresthia trifasciata Stgr. – VC 92: Bucksburn one, vi.1999 (Palmer, 1999). The first Scottish record of this species, there have been no subsequent records and attempts to rear it have so far failed, despite the finding of probable larval workings on *Cupressocyparis leylandii*.

Coleophoridae

Coleophora pappiferella Hofm. – VC 92: Morrone Hill, vi.2000 (Heckford, 2001). Otherwise recorded only from limestone areas of western Ireland.

Elachistidae

Elachista maculicerusella Bruand – VC 91: St. Cyrus, following the finding of one empty mine on *Phalaris* (JRL) in 1997 (Langmaid & Young 1999), a single moth was taken at light ix.1999. This species appears to be a resident and at present this is the most northerly record in Britain.

Ethmiidae

Ethmia pyrausta (Pallas) – VC 92: one on The Cairnwell, v.2001 (KPB). After a gap of 143 years, this species was rediscovered in Britain in 1996 on nearby Glas Maol (VC 90) (Young & Smith, 1997). Probably a long overlooked resident, once the foodplant (?*Thalictrum* sp.) is confirmed, and larvae are found, the species will probably prove much commoner than the three known British specimens suggest.

Gelechiidae

Scrobipalpa murinella (Dup.) – VC 92: Morrone Hill, vi.2000 (Heckford, 2001). Otherwise only known from the west of Ireland and the Scottish islands of Rum and Coll.

Syncopacma albifrontella (Hein.) – VC 92: Morrone Hill. Discovered by RJH in 2001 and new to Britain, a paper on this species is in preparation. We are grateful to RJH for his permission to mention this species here.

Momphidae

Mompha miscella (D. & S.) – VC 91: Muchalls, larvae on *Helianthemum* (Reid, 1893). VC 92: Morrone Hill, adult and vacated mines on *Helianthemum* vi.2000. A species which has been awaiting rediscovery for many years; vacated mines, probably of this species, have been found in several localities but we have been loathe to record it without the confirmatory presence of an adult.

Tortricidae

Aethes rubigana (Tr.) – VC 91: St. Cyrus vii.1999 (MRY). Probably a resident, moths were found commonly sitting on the foodplant, *Arctium lappa*.

Eucosma obumbratana (L.& Z.) – VC 91: St. Cyrus, possibly a migrant, a single specimen came to light ix.1999.

Eudonia alpina (Curtis.) – VC 92: Common in a few localities near Braemar (Reid, 1897); this species was rediscovered on The Cairnwell in 1998 (KPB), and was present in the same locality in 1999 and 2001.

Pyralidae

Platytes alpinella (Hb.) – VC 92: A single specimen at light, Bucksburn, 1998, almost certainly a migrant.

Trachycera advenella (Zinck.) – The sudden arrival of this moth in three vice-counties in the last two years suggests that it may become our most recently established resident, although at present the three different and widely separated habitats in which moths have occurred suggests that these specimens were strays. VC 92: Spittal of Glenmuick ix.2000 (HG) (Langmaid & Young, 2001). VC 91: Scolty Hill near Banchory, one, viii.2001. VC 93: Oldmeldrum, two, viii.2000.

Pterophoridae

Hellinsia osteodactylus (Zell.) – VC 91: St. Cyrus vii.1999 is the most northerly British record. (Young, 1999). Probably an overlooked resident, several moths were seen around the foodplant (*Senecio* sp.).

Geometridae

Mesoleuca albicillata (L.) – VC 91: Inchmarlo near Banchory one, vii.1998 and one vii.2000 (CWNH). It is possible that this species is another scarce and local resident, but based on only two specimens this remains speculation.

Coenocalpe lapidata (Hb.) – VC 92: One in the Rothamsted trap on the Mar estate near Braemar ix.2001. As this species is not a noted wanderer the probability is that there is an undiscovered colony in the Braemar area.

Eupithecia innotata f. *fraxinata* Crewe – Previously recorded only from VC 94, apart from old records [rare, near Aberdeen; Cowie, 1901]. This species may have been overlooked in Aberdeenshire but we suspect that it has spread rapidly in the last two years. VC 91: Inchmarlo 1999 (CWNH). VC 92: Rothamsted trap, nr. Monymusk three in 1998 and several in 1999. VC 93 Oldmeldrum two in 1999.

Macaria notata (L.) – VC 94: A single specimen at Carron (NJ 2041), vi.2000 (DAB). Very probably now a resident and recent coloniser from the west, it is known to occur in counties bordering Banffshire.

Selenia tetralunaria (Hufn.) – VC 94: Craggan, one, v.01 (MRY & DAB), possibly a stray from the west but a very probable addition to the list of resident Lepidoptera.

Ourapteryx sambucaria (L.) – VC 91: Inchmarlo, Banchory one, vii.1998. Three further specimens at the same location in 1999 and two in 2000 (all taken by CWNH) are sufficient evidence that this conspicuous moths is a fairly recently arrived resident in this well worked area of Deeside.

Deileptenia ribeata (Cl.) – This species also appears to have colonised north east Scotland very recently. Specimens taken at light in VC 91 (Inchmarlo) between 24.vii and 19.ix.1999 and during the same months at the Rothamsted trap in VC 92 (Monymusk) have been recorded previously (Palmer & Holmes, 2001). The species seems to be firmly established at both sites having been recorded annually since (14 at Monymusk in 2001) and also recorded at Scolty Hill, near to the original Kincardineshire site, in 2001.

Nolidae

Nola confusalis (H.-S.) – VC 94: Craggan, one, v.2001. Ordiquhill, Cornhill, one, vi.2001. A predictable addition to the list, this species is well known from adjacent counties of Moray and E. Inverness.

Noctuidae

Noctua interjecta Hubn. – VC 91: St. Cyrus one, ix.1999, probably a migrant.

Orthosia cruda (D.& S.) – VC 91: A single specimen in the Rothamsted trap at Glen Saugh; iv.1999. Southern inland parts of VC 91 are poorly worked, this species may be a recent arrival but may have been undetected there, at the northern edge of its range for some time.

Brachionycha nubeculosa (Esp.) – VC 92: A very exciting addition to the list, all of the other macrolepidoptera which are known from the central highlands, the Spey valley, Aviemore, Rannoch etc. are known also from Deeside so the discovery of this species should perhaps not be too surprising. Two moths came to an m.v. trap run by NL, iv.2002 in an area west of Braemar, and at higher elevation than the very well worked areas of Deeside from Dinnet and Ballater to Braemar.

Shrankia costaestrigalis (Steph.) – VC 94: Ordiquhill, Cornhill, one at m.v. viii.1998. Another “macro” which is probably in the process of colonising Banffshire from the west.

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